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Louisiana Field Office • 5825 Florida Blvd • Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 922-1362 • (225)922-0744 FAX <http://www.nass.usda.gov/la>

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

December Livestock Slaughter
Cattle Inventory
Average Prices Received by Farmers
Milk Production

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during December totaled 500,000 pounds, unchanged from November but 17 percent below the previous year.

There were 400 head of **cattle** slaughtered during December, down 100 head from November and 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 714 pounds, down six pounds from the previous month and 27 pounds below November 2008. Total live weight, at 264,000 pounds, was down 22 percent from the previous month and 36 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during December totaled 400 head, unchanged from November and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 502 pounds, down 14 pounds from November and 22 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 210,000 pounds, was down four percent from November but one percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during December totaled 1,500 head, up 300 head from the previous month but 300 head below December 2008. Average live weight was 161 pounds, down 21 pounds from November but 21 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 249,000 pounds, up ten percent from November but three percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during December was 300 head, unchanged from November but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 60 pounds, unchanged from the previous month but two pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.2 billion pounds in December, down slightly from December 2008.

December 2009 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. **December 2008** contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.1 billion pounds, was two percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.8 million head, up three percent from December 2008. The average live weight was down seven pounds from the previous year, at 1,296 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.1 million pounds, two percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 92,300 head, down two percent from December 2008. The average live weight was down five pounds from last year, at 240 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.0 billion pounds, down three percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.8 million head, down three percent from December 2008. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.9 million pounds, was up three percent from December 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 235,300 head, two percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up two pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2009 commercial red meat production was 49.3 billion pounds, down two percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down two percent from last year; veal was down three percent; pork was down two percent from last year; and lamb and mutton production was down two percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	November	December		January – December		December		January – December	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	0.5	0.6	0.4	7.4	7.0	2,671.5	2,752.8	34,364.9	33,333.4
Calves	0.4	0.4	0.4	4.6	4.4	94.1	92.3	956.6	943.8
Hogs	1.2	1.8	1.5	15.6	13.0	10,144.9	9,832.9	116,451.9	113,583.5
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.4	0.3	3.8	4.2	230.9	235.3	2,555.5	2,517.3
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	340	415	264	5,719	5,043	3,468,180	3,556,432	43,893,712	42,960,943
Calves	218	207	210	2,352	2,257	22,713	21,904	242,849	233,278
Hogs	226	258	249	3,029	2,500	2,739,561	2,653,968	31,196,992	30,714,040
Sheep & Lambs	18	22	18	267	266	30,876	31,853	347,661	341,623
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	720	741	714	773	720	1,303	1,296	1,282	1,293
Calves	516	524	502	511	513	245	240	257	250
Hogs	182	140	161	194	192	270	270	268	271
Sheep & Lambs	60	62	60	70	63	134	136	136	136
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	0.5	0.6	0.5	7.1	6.3	4,162.8	4,147.5	50,223.1	49,264.8

Louisiana Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves on Louisiana farms as of January 1, 2010, were estimated at 840,000 head, down six percent from a year ago. All cows that have calved were estimated at 520,000 head, down four percent from a year ago. Louisiana's 2009 calf crop was estimated at 400,000 head, down five percent from the 2008 calf crop.

- ▶ **Beef cows** were estimated at 499,000 head, down three percent from January 1, 2009.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 21,000 head, were down 16 percent from a year ago.

Other cattle inventory estimates and changes from a year ago were:

- ▶ **Beef cow replacement heifers** – 82,000 head, down six percent.
- ▶ **Milk cow replacement heifers** – 7,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Other heifers** – 16,000 head, down six percent.
- ▶ **Steers 500 pounds and over** – 21,000 head, down 12 percent.
- ▶ **Bulls 500 pounds and over** – 32,000 head, down six percent.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds** – 162,000 head, down ten percent.

United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2010, totaled 93.7 million head, one percent below the 94.5 million on January 1, 2009. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 40.5 million, were down one percent from the 41.0 million on January 1, 2009.

- ▶ **Beef cows**, at 31.4 million, were down one percent from January 1, 2009.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 9.1 million, were down three percent from January 1, 2009.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2010, and the change from January 1, 2009, are as follows:

- ▶ **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 19.7 million, up slightly.
- ▶ **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.4 million, down two percent.
- ▶ **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.5 million, up two percent.
- ▶ **Other heifers**, 9.7 million, up one percent.
- ▶ **Steers weighing 500 pounds and over**, 16.4 million, down two percent.
- ▶ **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over**, 2.2 million, up slightly.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds**, 14.9 million, up slightly.
- ▶ **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.6 million, down 2 percent.
- ▶ The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots was 27.5 million, down slightly.

The 2009 **calf crop** was estimated at 35.8 million head, down one percent from 2008. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 26.0 million, down one percent from 2008.

CATTLE INVENTORY – JANUARY 1

Item	Louisiana		United States	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	-----Thousand Head-----		-----Thousand Head-----	
All Cattle and Calves	890	840	94,521	93,701
Beef Cows	515	499	31,712	31,376
Milk Cows	25	21	9,333	9,081
Beef Cow Replacement Heifers	87	82	5,531	5,436
Milk Cow Replacement Heifers	7	7	4,410	4,516
Other Heifers	17	16	9,635	9,714
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	24	21	16,769	16,440
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	34	32	2,184	2,190
Calves Under 500 Pounds	181	162	14,948	14,949
Cattle on Feed	---	---	13,856	13,642

	2008	2009	2008	2009
Calf Crop	420	400	36,153	35,819

January Farm Prices Received Index Up

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 137 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased two points from December. The Crop Index was unchanged but the Livestock Index increased four points. Producers received higher prices for broilers, cattle, hogs and apples and lower prices for lettuce, corn, broccoli and soybeans. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a three-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat and rice offset decreased marketings of milk, broilers, cotton and grapes.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down two points from January 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 137, increased two points from last month and increased three points from January 2009.

Prices Paid Index Up

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 183 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up four points from December and three points above January 2009. Higher prices for taxes, cash rent, other services and diesel more than offset lower prices in January for interest, feed grains, concentrates and mixed fertilizer.

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	January 2009	December 2009	January ¹ 2010	January 2009	December 2009	January ¹ 2010
	----- Dollars -----			----- Dollars -----		
Soybeans, per bushel	9.54	9.41	9.59	9.97	9.80	9.49
Sorghum, per cwt	n/a	2/	2/	5.68	5.71	5.53
Rice, per cwt	15.90	13.30	13.80	18.20	14.40	14.60
Upland Cotton, per pound	.471	.600	.615 ³	.460	.628	.632 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	135.00	107.00	109.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	55.60	53.50	57.10	80.10	78.60	81.90
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	83.00	77.80	83.00	85.80	83.80	87.00
Cows, per cwt ⁵	43.80	42.10	46.00	42.30	43.50	47.10
Calves, per cwt	94.00	94.30	95.00	106.00	105.00	109.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.480	.420	.480
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.030	1.050	1.030
Milk, All, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.30	16.50	16.50

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = Not Available.

Louisiana Milk Production

Louisiana dairies produced 58 million pounds of milk during the October-December 2009 quarter, down 15 percent from the same period in 2008. Milk cows averaged 21,000 head during the quarter, down 4,000 head from last year.

United States Milk Production

Milk production in the U.S. during the October - December quarter totaled 46.2 billion pounds, down one percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.1 million head, 243,000 head less than the same period last year.

Quarterly Milk Production: Selected States, October-December 2008-2009

Selected States	October-December Milk Cows ¹		October-December Milk Production ²	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	-----Thousands-----		-----Millions-----	
Alabama	12	11	42	36
Arkansas	14	13	43	37
Louisiana	25	21	68	58
Mississippi	19	17	63	55
Oklahoma	63	57	261	239
Tennessee	59	54	225	208
23 Major States ³	8,519	8,314	43,286	42,894
United States	9,330	9,087	46,727	46,240

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

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Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038